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Article for the 'News' - Festival

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ARTICLE BY THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, MR DON DUNSTAN,
FOR THE NEWS. 7.3.74

The 1974 Adelaide Festival of Arts has an undoubted new star - our superb new Festival Theatre.

The Theatre has already won international acclaim both for the quality of its architecture and for the facilities it offers performers.

Audience figures prove it is also immensely popular with South Australians.

But the enhanced South Australian content of the international Festival is not confined to the Festival Centre.

The policy which we have been following for four years of upgrading local performing arts companies is now showing very real results.

To give but one example, the South Australian Theatre Company, which will take a leading part in the Festival, is now recognised as among the very best in Australia. Sparkling direction, polished acting and original choice of plays have made the company a talking point throughout Australia.

With the completion of stage two of the Festival Centre complex giving the S.A.T.C. a permanent home, we can expect it to acquire still greater lustre.

This is perhaps the most heartening feature of this year's Festival.

It is the Government's long term aim that the Festival should be the culmination of activity in the arts in this State - not a bi-ennial oasis in a two year cultural desert. This is now beginning to happen.

But the Festival is, of course, also a showcase for international artists and an opportunity for South Australians and our many visitors to sample a whole range of entertainments

and exhibitions.

They are well served this year.

Overseas performers like the Stratford National Theatre of Canada, the National Theatre of the Deaf from the United States, the Moscow Circus, Hungarian State Orchestra, Fires of London, and Collegium Musicum of Zurich win capacity audiences wherever they tour.

Combined with the Australian and South Australian participants, the various Festival exhibitions, Writers' Week, and a much expanded range of fringe activities, this Festival promises to be among the best ever.

That means entertainment and stimulation for audiences and performers alike and further recognition of Adelaide as a must on any tourist's itinerary.